

President Clerides and Denktash have been meeting since the beginning of this year. The third round of these talks resumed last month. I am confident that the leadership of the Republic of Cyprus will continue to negotiate in good faith until a comprehensive settlement is reached as they have tried to do all along.

Mr. Speaker, I now hope the Turkish Cypriot leadership will listen to the statements of the Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and finally respond by putting aside its unreasonable and unacceptable demands and negotiate in good faith. The most effective way for Turkey to expedite its membership into the European Union is for the Nation to finally support Cyprus' own accession into the EU and to drop its threats of annexing the Turkish-occupied northern third of the island if Cyprus' accession occurs. Turkey could also help its cause with the European Union by listening to its own Deputy Prime Minister and undertaking new initiatives on Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, given the instability in the adjacent region of the Middle East, now is a great time to heal the wounds in Cyprus that have been poisoning the relations between Greece and Turkey for nearly three decades. I am hopeful that the U.N. Secretary's visit to Cyprus and the statements of a high ranking Turkish official will move us closer to a just resolution of the Cyprus problem.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINOJOSA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHOWS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for us to change our policy toward Cuba. Yesterday, 40 bipartisan Members of this House who comprise the Cuba Working Group, 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans, organized by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), released a set of policy recommendations designed to encourage a more rational, mature and sensible policy towards Cuba. As a member of that working group and as a longtime critic of U.S. policy towards Cuba, I wholeheartedly endorse the recommendations. They are sensible, they are mainstream, and they are an achievable set of policy goals for U.S.-Cuban relations. Among other things, the group urges a repeal of the travel ban imposed by the U.S. Government, which denies Americans the right to travel to Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, freedom to travel is a basic right for all Americans. It goes against our values to tell Americans that they cannot travel to certain destinations.

Further, Americans visiting Cuba in my opinion can help promote democratic values more than all the high-voltage speeches that are regularly delivered on this House floor. The group also calls for more normal relations with regard to exports of U.S. agricultural and medical products to Cuba by eliminating U.S. procedures and restrictions that make such activity virtually impossible. The group also urges better cooperation between our two countries in terms of controlling migration and in terms of combating drug trafficking. We also call for an end to the restrictive and counterproductive Helms-Burton law.

There are other recommendations in this report designed to encourage a better relationship between our two countries. The recommendations in this report should be implemented and are in the best interests of both the American and Cuban peoples.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. policy toward Cuba today is about as relevant as a little piece of the Berlin Wall that you can buy in gift shops. It is a relic of the Cold War that no longer serves any meaningful purpose. Our policy undermines the values and goals the United States cares about, values like freedom and open markets. Thank God for Jimmy Carter. He deserves our praise for speaking the truth about human rights to the Cuban government and the Cuban people and he deserves our praise for advocating the end of the misguided and ineffective U.S. embargo on Cuba. It is frustrating, in my opinion, that the Bush administration does not get it. It is frustrating that for all the rhetoric about democracy, the will of this Congress and the will of the American people to normalize relations with Cuba consistently gets trampled on.

Right here in this Chamber, we have on a number of occasions voted over-

whelmingly to lift the travel restrictions now imposed on U.S. citizens, preventing U.S. citizens from being able to travel to Cuba. We have voted numerous times to lift that restriction. Yet in each instance mysteriously these provisions get lost in conference committees. It is wrong. The leadership of this House and indeed the White House should respect the will of the Members of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the President would engage us in a real dialogue about our policy. The time has come for honest and forthright negotiations between the Congress and the White House on this issue. I fear, however, that next week the President will rattle the same old dusty sabers. He will show the same old unhealthy obsession with Fidel Castro. But he should know, Mr. Speaker, that there is a bipartisan majority in this Congress and there is a bipartisan majority in this country that will continue to advocate for some common sense.

## WELFARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is necessary to reflect on the day's legislative agenda to frame for yourself and your colleagues and the American people just what occurred. I am disappointed today to have to announce that what occurred today was both unnecessary and, as well, misguided. Today, the House debated welfare reform. It debated it in a rushed atmosphere that was completely unnecessary. First of all, the legislation, originally called H.R. 4700, now called today 4737, does not expire until September of 2002.

There was much debate on what occurred in 1996, when the President of the United States was named William Jefferson Clinton and welfare reform came to light in a larger forum. All of the numbers suggest that it was a success and we should continue on, and there is no debate on that. Certainly there were a lot of strides that were made with transitioning individuals from welfare to work. They were proud of that. In my own district, I know that I attended a number of graduation classes of individuals who had the ability to be in training programs that allowed them to develop skills to move them from welfare to work.

What one would think that we would do today, of course, would be to build on that success story, not tear it down. But I heard someone today on the floor say, you know, this is about tough love, get them out working 40 hours and that is what this is all about. But then I heard someone come back and say, this is about tough luck and tough loss. It is about condemning poor people, that they have no intent to improve themselves, that everybody on welfare is there purposefully and does